

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: David DIDUCH et al. **Examiner:** G. DAWSON
Serial No.: 10/084,283 **Confirmation No.** 7097
Filed: February 26, 2002 **Group Art Unit:** 3731
Title: Suture Passing Devices

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Applicant wishes to make of record in the above-identified application the document or documents on the attached Form PTO-1449. No copies of U.S. patent documents are being submitted because the Patent Office has ready access to such documents.

The undersigned believes that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) for the above-referenced application. Accordingly, Applicant does not believe that a fee is due for filing this paper. However, should a first action on the merits have been issued on the same day or before this Information Disclosure Statement is filed, please accept this Information Disclosure Statement under Rule 97(c) and charge the requisite Rule 17(p) fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-2882, under Order No. DID-101 and proceed to consider this Information Disclosure Statement.

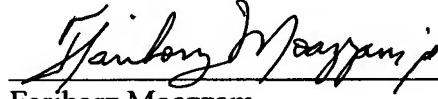
It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that each reference be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This submission does not represent that any referenced document is material or constitutes "prior art." If it should be determined that one or more of the referenced documents constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the reference or references.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over any referenced document, should it be applied against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 21 Feb 2006


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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.		Complete if Known	
Substitute for form 1449/PTO		Application Number	10/084,283
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Filing Date	26 February 2002
		First Named Inventor	David R. DIDUCH et al.
		Art Unit	3731
		Examiner Name	Glenn K. DAWSON
Sheet	of	Attorney Docket Number	DID-101

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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¹EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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